

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 AF-04 NSCE-00 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 /037 W
-----080669 221955Z /66

O P 221937Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8761
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09363

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, US, FR, BE
SUBJECT: ALLEGED POLITICAL COORDINATION MEETING ON
SHABA OPERATION

1. VAN WELL CALLED ME IN THIS AFTERNOON TO
INQUIRE ABOUT A "POLITICAL COORDINATION MEETING" ON
THE FRANCO-BELGIAN OPERATION IN SHABA WHICH HAD
ALLEGEDLY TAKEN PLACE IN HEIDELBERG AMONG U.S.,
FRENCH AND BELGIUM REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID THE
FRG HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING
ON MAY 19 THOUGH HE DID NOT SAY WHEN IT HAD BEEN
HELD.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF
THE MEETING AND GENSCHER HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT
HE MIGHT BE QUERIED ABOUT IT AT THE EC-FOREIGN
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MINISTER'S MEETING (MAY 20-21) OR BY THE PRESS.
VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WAS RELAXED ABOUT THE
MATTER AND WISHED TO HELP IN INSTANCES SUCH AS SHABA,
BUT WAS ANXIOUS TO AVOID CRITICISM THAT IT WAS UN-
INFORMED OF EVENTS TAKING PLACE ON ITS OWN SOIL.

3. IN REPLY, I SAID WE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A

MEETING BUT I ASSUMED THAT, HAD IT IN FACT TAKEN PLACE, IT PROBABLY DEALT WITH MILITARY-LOGISTIC PLANNING RATHER THAN POLITICAL COORDINATION. IN ANY CASE, I NOTED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD MORE LIKELY HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT EUCOM THAN HEIDELBERG. I UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

4. VAN WELL ALSO MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT THE EMBASSY HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE FOREIGN OFFICE (IN A LOW-KEY PRESENTATION MADE BY AN EMBOFF EARLIER TODAY) ABOUT THE ROLE IN THE SHABA OPERATION OF U.S. AIRCRAFT STATIONED IN THE FRG. AT THIS POINT, I REITERATED THAT FRG-BASED AIRCRAFT HAD NOT BEEN USED IN AFRICA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING SO THAT I MAY REPLY TO VAN WELL.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, ALLEGATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN09363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-1022
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780535/aaaabdag.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5c88a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2620902
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED POLITICAL COORDINATION MEETING ON SHABA OPERATION
TAGS: PEPR, GE, US, FR, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5c88a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014